GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2709
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
FLOOD CONTROL
PRABHUNATH SINGH;PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI;SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI;TARUN GOGOI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several districts of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and particularly of West Bengal are severely affected by the devastating flood, excessive soil erosion and water logging caused by Ganga, Brahmaputra and their several tributaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from any Member of Parliament of West Bengal in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether any long term and short term measure have been taken by the Government to control the regular flood in above States; and

(f) if so, the special additional funds provided by the Government to above each State during the current financial year to control the flood menace?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Flood Problem in Assam: The flood prone area of Assam is nearly 31.5 lakh ha out of total geographical area of 78.5 lakh ha. This consists of 28 lakh ha flood prone area in Brahmaputra Valley and 3.5 lakh ha in Barak Valley. There are 30 identified pockets of drainage congestion in the State. The districts generally affected by floods are Dhemaji, Golaghat, Jorhat, North Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Dhubri, Darrang Morigaon, Goalpara, Nalbari and Barpeta.

Flood problem in West Bengal: The State of West Bengal has a geographical area of about 88.75 lakh ha out of which 26.5 lakh ha is flood prone. West Bengal is affected by devastating flood, excessive soil erosion and water logging caused by Ganga/Padma and its tributaries like Mahananda, Punarbhaba, Bhagirathi, Hooghly, Mayurakshi, Ajoy, Damodar etc. The most frequently affected districts are North and South Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore,Howrah, hooghly and North and South 24 Parganas.

Flood problem in Bihar: The flood prone area of Bihar is nearly 42.6 lakh ha out of the total geographical area of 173.88 lakh ha. Bihar is affected by devastating flood, excessive soil erosion and water logging caused by rivers Bagmati, Adhwara, Kamla Balan, Kosi, Mahananda, Punpun, Sone, Ghagra, Ganga, Gandak and Burhi Gandak.The districts generally affected by floods are Muzaffarpur, West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi,Sheohar, Saran, Gopalganj, Darbhanga, Samstipur, Mahedpura, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhubani, Purnea, Araria, Kishanganj, Katihar, Begusarai, Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Sehebaganj, Pakur, Patna and Jehanabad.

Flood problem in Uttar Pradesh: Uttar Pradesh has a geographical area of 294.41 lakh ha out of which 73.4 lakh ha is liable to floods. The main rivers that cause floods in Uttar Pradesh are Ghagra, Ganga, Gandak, Ken, Rapti, Betwa, and Yamuna. Thedistricts generally affected by floods are Khiri, Gorakpur, Gonda, Sidharthnagar, Kushinagar, Sant Kabirnagar and Bharaich.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Flood Control is a State subject. Planning, execution and maintenance of flood management works is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Centre renders technical, catalytical and promotional assistance. In response to the representations from the Members of Parliament, the Central Government has requested the State Government of West Bengal to take appropriate action as desired by the Hon'ble M.Ps. from the State Plan funds.

In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for taking up anti erosionmeasures in some of the critically affected reaches has been formulated by the Central Government. The Planning Commission and the Expenditure Finance Committee have already cleared the scheme.

(e)&(f) State Governments have been undertaking location specific schemes as per requirement. The State Government of Assam has undertaken a number of flood control schemes in the flood affected areas of the State under Central assistance. Brahmaputra Board has undertaken the construction of Harang Drainage Development Scheme in Barak Valley to remove the Drainage congestion in that area. Brahmaputra Board has prepared Master Plans for Brahmaputra and Barak Basins and sent the same to the State Government of Assam and other concerned States for implementation. The Master Plans emphasize both short term and long term measures to control floods in the region. State Government of West Bengal and Farakka Barrage Project Authority are implementing the recommendations of the Expert Committee to prevent the soil erosion problem in the Ganga-Padma river system. Ganga Flood Control Commission renders technical assistance as and when requested by the State Government of West Bengal.

An amount of Rs.20.00 crore have been earmarked in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for State Government of Assam during the current financial year to undertake flood control and anti erosion schemes in the State.

An amount of Rs.30 crore has been earmarked for the State Government of West Bengal in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for flood management/anti erosion measures during 2000-2001 and 2001- 2002. In the current financial year, an amount of Rs.2.52 crore has been provided for flood management/anti erosion work through Farakka Barrage Project Authority. In addition to this, an amount of Rs.17.50 crore has been earmarked in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Farakka Barrage Project Authority for undertaking anti erosion schemes in Malda and Murshidabad districts during the 9th Plan period.

Outlay of Rs.5 crore, Rs.2 crore and Rs.1 crore have been provided in the current financial year for the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely
(i) Flood Protection works in Kosi and Gandak rivers
(ii) Flood Proofing Programme in North Bihar and

(iii) Raising and Strengthening of existing embankments along Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando rivers respectively in Bihar State.

In addition to this an amount of Rs. 39.50 crore and Rs.20.00 crore have been earmarked for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the years 2000- 2001 and 2001-2002.